

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-12 and 14-23 are pending. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20 and 21 stand rejected. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, and 23 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 and 23 have been amended. Claims 4, 9, 14, 18 and 22 have been cancelled.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22 and 23 and has amended independent claims 1, 6, 13, 16 and 20 to include the subject matter in dependent claims 4, 9, 14, 18, and 22, respectively.

Having amended the independent claims to include the subject matter of the respective dependent claims, applicant submits that the amended independent claims reflect the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the amendments made to the independent claims raise no new issues and requires only a cursory review by the Examiner as the amendment adopts the Examiner's suggestions and places the independent claims in an allowable form.

Claims 1-3, 16, 17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ran (USP no. 5,768,533) in view of Farinacci (USP no. 5,519,704). Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, the independent claims have been amended to reflect the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Hence, the reason for the rejection is no longer applicable and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered and the rejection withdrawn.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims depend from an independent claim, which has been shown to be in an allowable form. Accordingly, the remained

dependent claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable independent claim.

Although the last Office Action was made final, this amendment should be entered. No matter has been added to the claims that would require comparison with the prior art or any further review only require a cursory review is required by the Examiner. Rather, the amendments have been made to put the claims in a form indicated to be allowable. The amendment therefore should be entered without requiring a showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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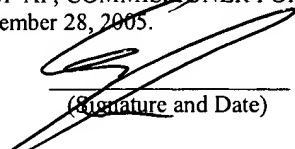
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